(a) whether it has been decided to send one Member each of the Planning Commission to the participating States to assess and to make indepth study of the problems of these States regarding the implementation of the Sardar Sarovar Project;

(b) if so, the views taken of the participating States in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have examined the recommendations made by the members; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the efforts being made by the Government for early settlement of the dispute and the completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) to (d) The Chief Minister of Gujarat had requested the Prime Minister for his intervention by convening a meeting of the Chief Ministers of all the four participating States to see that the construction work of the Sardar Sarovar Project (SSP) is resumed immediately during the current construction season. The construction of the dam has been affected mainly due to problems of rehabilitation and resettlement of people as affected by submergence. Considering that the completion of the project would yield vast economic benefits to the region and complete cooperation is necessary amongst the four participating States for smooth and timely implementation of this project, early resolution of pending issues becomes necessary. As such and to pave the way for holding a meeting at the Prime Minister's level with the four party States, it has been considered advisable to make efforts through informal talks separately with each of the four party States so as to narrow down their differences and thereby to bring these four States to a point of convergence. It is against this background, that the member (Irrigation), Planning Commission has decided to hold meetings separately with each of the Party States.

Manufacture of Light Transport Aircraft

719. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to manufacture Light Transport Aircraft;

(b) whether the National Aerospace Laboratories, Bangalore has been asked to develop and design such aircraft;

(c) if so, the fund sanctioned for the purpose;

(d) the steps taken by the National Aerospace Laboratories, Bangalore in this regard; and

(e) the details of the programme of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (e) National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) has no proposal to manufacture Light Transport Aircraft (LTA). However, they have initiated an in-house project for design and development of LTA. The configuration of LTA has been frozen. Detailed design is now under way but no specific time-frame can be indicated for its completion at this stage.

No fund has been sanctioned as yet by the Government. NAL are, however, utilising their own reserve funds for carrying out the Research and Development activities.

Institute on Watch List

720. SHRI SURESH PRABHU :
DR. M. JAGANNATH :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.S. Administration has recently decided to place the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore on its watch list; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b) As per available information, the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore is not among the Indian Organisations notified by the United States under its domestic legislation for export control regulations.

[Translation]

Difficulty in Residing at Border

721. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government have been drawn towards the news-item captioned "Seema Par Jeena Muhal" published in the weekly edition of 'Dainik Jagran' dated June 22, 1997;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the arrangements being made to stop the exodus caused by repeated Pak firing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The militancy in the State of Jammu & Kashmir aided by some external forces continues. The State Government are handling the situation in J&K with the assistance of the security forces which are operating under the overall coordination of a Unified Headquarters.

Firings from across the border by the Pakistani troops has been a regular phenomena. Our security forces give appropriate response to such firings taking due care that the incidents may remain localised and minimum casualties caused to our side.

The people living in the border areas, at times, have to face difficulties due to firings from across the border and activities of the militants. Government takes necessary steps to ameliorate their condition to the extent possible.

[English]

Chinese Refusal to HAL

722. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item published in the 'Financial Express' dated June 30, 1997 under the caption "HAL refused berth in China's Asian Express";

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government to the observations made therein and facts of the matter; and

(c) the details of action taken/proposed to take up the matter with appropriate Authorities abroad to protect and promote the interest of HAL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (c) The "Asian Express" programme, as reported in the newsitem published in the 'Financial Express' dated June 30, 1997, is a 100 seater aireraft project of Chinese Government. Separately, as part of its diversification plan, M/s. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is looking for partners for co-production/co-development of 100 seater aircraft In this regard, HAL has also approached the Aviation Industries of China (AVIC). However, no response has been received from them.

Digital Flight Control Computer for LCA

723. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bharat Electronics Limited has some working arrangement with Lockhead Martin of US for digital flight control computer for Light Combat Aircraft (LCA);

(b) whether the Government of U.S. is trying to put hurdles in the said arrangement; and

(c) if so, the facts thereof and steps taken by the Government to tackle the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) No. Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Performance of Sea Eagle Missiles

724. SHRI AJMEERA CHANDULAL :
SHRI SURESH PRABHU :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the performance of the sea eagle missiles purchased for the Navy has been found to be substandard;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any enquiry has been made to fix responsibility for purchasing sub-standard missiles; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (d) The Sea Eagle Missiles were acquired by the Navy in 1987-88 from British Aerospace, U.K. Prior to induction from UK, the capabilities of the Sea Eagle Missiles (SEMs) were fully demonstrated during live firings from Sea Harrier Aircraft and, therefore, it is not correct to term the missiles as sub-standard. Recently in April, 1997, Navy carried out two practice firings and in both the cases some malfunctionings were noticed. Immediate measures have been initiated to identify the specific nature of the problem so as to rectify them and ensure the serviceability of the remaining missiles in stock.